

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE TITLE

Please substitute the title at page 1, line 1 with ---COATING AGENT [CONSISTING OF] COMPRISING AT LEAST FOUR COMPONENTS, METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME, AND USE THEREOF---.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A coating composition [consisting of] comprising at least four components, [comprising]
 - (I) a component comprising at least one oligomeric or polymeric resin containing functional groups [which] that react with isocyanate groups[,] as binder [(A)],
 - (II) a component comprising at least one polyisocyanate as crosslinking agent [(F)],
 - (III) a component [which] that comprises water and is substantially free from acrylate copolymers [(A)] dispersed or dissolved therein, and
 - (IV) a finely divided solid component [which] that comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible finely divided solid acrylate copolymer [(A)].
2. (Amended) A process for producing [a coating from] a coating composition [consisting of] comprising at least four components by mixing of the components, application of the resulting coating composition to the surface that is to be coated, and curing of the resulting wet film, which comprises
 - 1) mixing at least one component (I) comprising at least one oligomeric or polymeric resin containing functional groups [which] that react with isocyanate groups [as binder (A)], with at least one component (II) comprising at least one polyisocyanate [as crosslinking agent (F)], to give [the] a mixture (I/II);
 - 2) mixing at least one component (III) [which] that comprises water and is substantially free from acrylate copolymers [(A)] dissolved or dispersed therein with at least one finely divided solid component (IV) [which] that comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible, finely divided solid

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acrylate copolymer [(A)], to give the mixture (III/IV); [and then either] and

3) one of

(a) at least one of dispersing [and/or] and dissolving the mixture (I/II) in the mixture (III/IV); [or]

(b) [4)] at least one of dispersing [and/or] and dissolving the mixture (III/IV) in the mixture (I/II),
to give [5)] the coating composition (I/II/III/IV).

3. (Amended) The coating composition [as claimed in] of claim 1 [or the process as claimed in claim 2], wherein the finely divided solid component (IV) is preparable by at least one of

i) spray-drying [or freeze-drying of] solutions, emulsions, or dispersions of the acrylate copolymers; [(A)]

ii) freeze-drying of solutions, emulsions, or dispersions of the acrylate copolymers; [or]

iii) precipitation of acrylate copolymers [(A)] from their solution, dispersion or emulsion[.];

iv) [by] emulsion polymerization of the acrylate copolymers; [or]

v) precipitation polymerization of the acrylate copolymers; [(A) or] and

vi) [by] grinding of the acrylate copolymers [(A)].

4. (Amended) The coating composition [as claimed in] of claim 1 [or 3 or the process as claimed in claim 2 or 3], wherein the functional groups [which] that react with isocyanate groups comprise hydroxyl groups.

5. (Amended) The coating composition [as claimed in any] of claim 1 [claims 1, 3 and 4 or the process as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4], wherein component (III) further comprises at least one binder [(A)].

6. (Amended) The coating composition [as claimed in any] of claim 1 [claims 1 and 3 to 5 or the process as claimed in any of claims 2 to 5], wherein at least one of i) component (I) comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible

binder, and [(A) and/or] ii) component (III) comprises at least one water-dissolved or water-dispersed binder [(A)].

7. (Amended) The coating composition [or the process as claimed in] of claim 6, wherein the binders [(A)] comprise [alternatively] at least one of

- (i) functional groups [which] that can be converted into cations by at least one of neutralizing agents [and/or] and quaternizing agents, [and/or]
- (ii) functional groups that are cationic groups, [especially sulfonium groups],
[or]
- (iii) functional groups [which] that can be converted into anions by neutralizing agents, [and/or]
- (iv) functional groups that are anionic groups, [especially carboxylic acid and/or carboxylate groups,] and
[and/or]
- (v) nonionic hydrophilic groups[, especially poly(alkylene ether) groups].

8. (Amended) The coating composition [or the process as claimed in] of claim 7, wherein the binders [(A)] contain at least one of carboxylic acid groups [and/or] and carboxylate groups [(ii)].

9. (Amended) The coating composition [or the process as claimed in] of claim 8, wherein component (I) comprises at least one of the following as binders [(A)]

- (A1) at least one acrylate copolymer [(A1) which] that is dispersible or soluble in one or more organic, optionally water-dilutable solvents, contains hydroxyl groups and at least one of carboxylic acid groups [and/or] and carboxylate groups, and has a number average molecular weight Mn of between 1000 and 30,000 daltons, an OH number of from 40 to 200 mg KOH/g, and an acid number of from 5 to 150 mg KOH/g, [and/or]
- (A2) at least one polyester resin [(A2) which] that is dispersible or soluble in one or more organic, optionally water-dilutable solvents, contains hydroxyl groups at least one of carboxylic acid groups [and/or] and

carboxylate groups, and has a number average molecular weight Mn of between 1000 and 30,000 daltons, an OH number of from 30 to 250 mg KOH/g, and an acid number of from 5 to 150 mg KOH/g, [and/or] and

(A3) at least one polyurethane resin [(A3) which] that is dispersible or soluble in one or more organic, optionally water-dilutable solvents, contains hydroxyl groups and at least one of carboxylic acid groups [and/or] and carboxylate groups, and has a number average molecular weight Mn of between 1000 and 30,000 daltons, an OH number of from 20 to 200 mg KOH/g, and an acid number of from 5 to 150 mg KOH/g; and

component (III) comprises as binders [(A)] at least one of the polyester resins (A2) [and/or] and the polyurethane resins (A3), and

component (IV) comprises as binder [(A)] the acrylate copolymer (A1).

10. (Amended) The coating composition [as claimed in any of claims 1 and 3 to 9 or the process as claimed in any of claims 2 to 10] of claim 1, wherein some of the binders [(A)] in component (III) are [in] powder slurry particles.

11. (Amended) The [use of the] coating composition [as claimed in any of claims 1 and 3 to 10 or of the process as claimed in any of claims 2 to 10 in] of claim 1, wherein the coating composition is applied as a coating in at least one of an automotive OEM [finishing] finish, a refinish, [especially automotive refinish, coating of plastics] a plastic coating, [as] a topcoat, [materials and/or] and a primer-surfacer[s].

12. (Amended) A coating prepared from the coating composition of claim 1 [An automotive OEM finish or automotive refinish, coating on plastic, topcoat, or primer-surfacer coat, producible from a coating composition as claimed in any of claims 1 and 3 to 11 and/or with the aid of the process as claimed in any of claims 2 to 11].

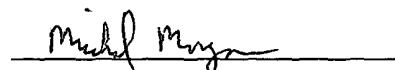
13. (Amended) An article [, especially automobile, comprising an automotive OEM finish or automotive refinish, coating on plastic, topcoat and/or primer-

surfacer coat as claimed in claim 12] comprising a coating, wherein the
coating is prepared from the coating composition of claim 1.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. patent practice. New claims 14-23 add no new matter, as these claims contain subject matter deleted from the amended claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,


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